

SECRET

3 November 1971

25X1 MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief,
INFO : Chief, FE Division
25X1 SUBJECT : SAIGON

1. South Vietnam, as you well know, abounds in feather merchants. My prejudices may be showing, but the most feckless of this species are those claiming blood or friendship ties with the former royal family and who are especially fond of peddling elaborate, phantasmagorical schemes involving the restoration of the House of Nguyen to anyone dumb enough to listen. If there is any serious repository of royalist sentiment in Vietnam -- outside the hothouse circle of those who take court precedence seriously -- I have never found it in 14 years of work on the Vietnam problem.

2. It is possible, though in my jaundiced eye unlikely, that some of the individuals mentioned in the referenced cable might have some marginal operational utility as informants on Communist groups or sympathizers. Any serious consideration of their political schemes would be a total waste of time. The chances of Bao Dai's family ever returning as such to political power in Vietnam are roughly equal to those of the descendants of the last Russian czar.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

25X1



Eric Chow

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